

In the claims:

For the Examiner's convenience, all pending claims are presented below with changes shown.

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

a first node determining one or more communication protocols via which a second node is capable of communicating with the first node based upon one or more parameters received from the second node during an initialization of communication between the first node and the second node, the one or more parameters specifying the one or more communication protocols;

selecting first drivers to implement an Ethernet protocol if the one or more parameters specify the first communication protocol;

selecting second drivers to implement an Asynchronous Transfer Mode protocol if the one or more parameters specifies the second protocol; and

in response to the selecting, invoking a plug and play (PnP) protocol manager to initiate loading of the ~~one or more~~ first or second drivers into memory.

2-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein: the first node comprises at least one modem driver; and the determining is performed by the at least one modem driver.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the initialization of the communication comprises a negotiation between the first node and the second node; and in response to a request from the first node, the second node transmits during the negotiation the one or more parameters to the first node.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a first node, including:

a memory device to store first drivers and second drivers; and

a processor to determine one or more communication protocols via which a second node is capable of communicating with the first node based upon one or more parameters received from the second node during an initialization of communication between the first node and the second node, the one or more parameters specifying the one or more-communication protocols, to select the first drivers to implement an Ethernet protocol if the one or more parameters specifies the first communication protocol and to select the second drivers to implement an Asynchronous Transfer Mode protocol if the one or more parameters specifies the second protocol and to invoke a plug and play (PnP) protocol manager to initiate loading of the ~~one or more~~ first or second drivers into memory.

9-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein:  
the processor is capable of executing at least one modem driver; and  
execution of the at least one modem driver by the processor results in the processor  
being capable of determining the one or more-communication protocols.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein:  
the initialization of the communication comprises a negotiation between the first node  
and the second node; and in response at least in part to a request from the first node, the  
second node transmits during the negotiation the one or more parameters to the first node.

15. (Currently Amended) An article comprising: a computer-readable medium having  
stored thereon instructions that when executed by a computer result in the following:  
at a first node determining one or more communication protocols via which a second  
node is capable of communicating with the first node based upon one or more parameters  
received from the second node during an initialization of communication between the first  
node and the second node, the one or more parameters specifying the one or more  
communication protocols;

the processor selecting first drivers to implement an Ethernet protocol if the one or  
more parameters specify the first communication protocol;

the processor selecting second drivers to implement an Asynchronous Transfer Mode protocol if the one or more parameters specifies the second protocol; and  
in response to the selecting, invoking a plug and play (PnP) protocol manager to initiate loading of the ~~one or more~~ first or second drivers into memory.

16-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 15, wherein:  
the first node comprises at least one modem driver; and  
the determining of the at least one communication protocol is performed by the at least one modem driver.

21. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 15, wherein:  
the initialization of the communication comprises a negotiation between the first node and the second node; and in response to a request from the first node, the second node transmits during the negotiation the one or more parameters to the first node.

22. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:

a first node comprising:

circuitry that includes a circuit card; and

a circuit board that includes a circuit card slot that is capable of coupling the circuit card to the circuit board; and

a second node;

the circuitry being capable of determining one or more communication protocols via which the second node is capable of communicating with the first node based upon one or more parameters received by the circuit card from the second node during an initialization of communication between the first node and the second node, one or more parameters specifying the one or more communication protocols, to select first drivers to implement an Ethernet protocol if the one or more parameters specifies the first communication protocol and to select second drivers to implement an Asynchronous Transfer Mode protocol if the one or more parameters specifies the second protocol.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein:

the circuit board comprises a bus and a host processor coupled to the bus; and when the circuit card is coupled to the slot, the circuitry is coupled to the bus.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein:

the circuit card comprises a digital subscriber line (DSL) modem.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein:

a central office (CO) comprises the second node; and customer premises equipment (CPE) comprises the modem.